



WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. When that happens, no parking is allowed on any city street for the following 48 hours or until the street has been plowed from curb to curb.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT CITY RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALT STORAGE



The City of Bloomington was honored with a 2011 Excellence in Storage Award from the Salt Institute for environmental consciousness and effective management in the storage of winter road salt. Bloomington joined 159 transportation facilities across the United States and Canada that were honored. A five-time recipient, Bloomington is one of only two agencies in Minnesota to receive the award.

"These facilities have cleared a high bar in meeting our standards," said Salt Institute President Lori Roman. "For example, in minimizing runoff alone, 10 specific criterion must be met. This meticulous care is well worth the investment to protect motorists, the economy and the environment."

Having enough road salt on hand before storms hit requires advance planning and safe, efficient storage methods. Among other best practices specified by the Salt Institute, Excellence in Storage winners must store salt on a pad, covering it with a roof or other approved materials. Winners must also display proper maintenance of facilities and good housekeeping practices.

"The familiar sight of trucks spreading salt on icy winter roads gives motorists reassurance, as it should," said Roman. "If that salt was stored in a facility honored with an Excellence in Storage Award, motorists have the added assurance of knowing the utmost care has been taken to protect public safety and the environment."

For more information, contact Public Works Director Karl Keel at 952-563-8731 or kkeel@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT SNOWS

A WINTER SURVIVAL GUIDE

There's no getting around it. Winter and snow go hand in hand. The City helps people get through it, literally, with snowplowing services.

The City of Bloomington prides itself on its snow removal services. However, residents can help the City provide even better service during the snowy winter months. These illustrations show what you can do before and during a snow incident.

Please follow these tips for a safe winter.



FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

1 Keep your mailbox clear of snow to ensure mail delivery. The mailbox should not extend past the curb and should have a sturdy four-by-four lumber post. The bottom of the mailbox should be no less than 45 inches off the ground and on the left side of the driveway.

2 If it snows on or near collection day, keep garbage and recycling bins away from the end of the driveway and behind the curb.

3 The Fire Department asks residents to shovel out fire hydrants near their home. Accessible hydrants substantially reduce the time it takes firefighters to douse a fire.

PARKING GUIDELINES

4 Bloomington Police enforce the parking ban in a snow emergency. *See top left sidebar.* This ensures that all streets get fully plowed during a snowstorm. In case of a snow emergency, park in your driveway. To find out if a snow emergency has been declared, visit the [City's website](#) or call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.

To receive snow alerts, scan the QR code below left or visit the City's website, click on [E-Subscribe](#) and sign up to receive e-mail or text message updates. You may also follow our snow alerts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



CHILD SAFETY

5 Never allow children to build tunnels or snow forts in snow banks near the street. The force and weight of the snow coming off the plows can collapse the tunnels or forts and may harm a child.

6 Keep sleds and toys out of the street and far away from the edge of the road. Snowbanks make it difficult for plow operators to see children in these areas. Children should never play near the edge of the road.

MINIMIZE UNSAFE DRIVING CONDITIONS

7 After a snowstorm, the City makes every effort to clear snow as quickly as possible. Snowplows may plow already shoveled snow into driveways. To reduce the chance that you'll have to shovel more than once, wait to clear the end of your driveway until the plows have completed plowing your street.

8 Shovel, plow or blow snow away from the street.

9 Stake the edge of the sidewalk along your property to help reduce sod damage associated with plowing. The City recommends lightweight wooden stakes, like those available at most home improvement stores. Mark only the side closest to the house to give plow operators the room they need. (The machines need a minimum 55 inches of clearance.) Keep in mind these markers need to be inexpensive and temporary. They should easily give if hit without damaging the plow equipment.



For more information, visit the City's website or contact Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler at 952-563-8766 or e-mail jeiler@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SNOW EMERGENCY.